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JUL 1 0 2006

Serial No. 10/017,927

OKI.469

Amendment dated July 10, 2006

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A voice synthesis apparatus for analyzing characters including a symbol character and for outputting the characters by voice synthesis, comprising:

a first detection module that detects a paragraph section <u>line</u> having a recurrent string pattern based on <u>in</u> a character column [[in]] of one line, wherein the recurrent string pattern comprises a plurality of strings each including a plurality of kinds of symbols; and

a voice synthesis module for performing voice synthesis for a rest of the character column, after deleting the paragraph section <u>line</u> from the character column.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A voice synthesis apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the recurrent string pattern is comprised of one kind of symbol that is repeated a plurality of times and another kind of symbol.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A voice synthesis apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the paragraph section includes the another kind of symbol added as a

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PAGE 6/16 * RCVD AT 7/10/2006 12:48:26 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-5/14 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:5712830740 * DURATION (mm-ss):03-30

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last character of the character column, at an end of the recurrent string pattern.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A voice synthesis apparatus for analyzing characters including a symbol character and for outputting the characters by voice synthesis, comprising:

a detection module that detects symmetry symmetrical patterns of a row of a symbol characters respectively at a beginning and an end of character column based on a character column [[in]] of one line; and

a voice synthesis module for performing voice synthesis for a rest of the character column, after deleting symbol character column intervals from the character column that have been detected as symmetrical-patterns having symmetry by said detection module.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A voice synthesis apparatus according to claim 4, wherein respective symbols of the symbol character column intervals have symmetry with respect to shape.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A voice synthesis apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a count module for counting up when a pair of symbols at symmetrical positions, within the character column have the same shape, whereby the detection module deletes respective strings of symbol characters as the symbol

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character column intervals when said count value is a predetermined value or more.

Claims 7-8 (Canceled)